

## Comprehension Questions

1. Why did the Crusades begin? What was so important about Jerusalem? Who was in control of it at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century? What did Pope Urban II have to do with the First Crusade?
2. Briefly explain the relationship between Urban II and Emperor Alexis I. Though devout enemies, was it surprising that they united under their religion? Why would Urban II agree to help Alexis?
3. When the Crusades arrived outside Constantinople, why was Emperor Alexis I furious? What was he expecting to receive when he called for aid from Urban II? What did Alexis finally do? How did he eventually “manipulate” Duke Godfrey of Guillon and his brother Baldwin?
4. Why did the Crusaders want to seize Antioch prior to moving on toward Jerusalem? What would have been the likely result if they had not taken Antioch? How did Bohemond finally make entry into Antioch, fostering the eventual Christian takeover?
5. How did the Crusaders take Jerusalem in the First Crusade? In what year? What tools (of divine intervention, perhaps) helped them overcome the massive walls that surrounded the city? Was the First Crusade a success? Explain.
6. What is a Jihad? Was Jihad founded after the First Crusade? What is a Crusade? Are meanings of Jihad and Crusade the same today as they were prior in the 11<sup>th</sup> century?
7. What were the 2 competing Muslim doctrines in the 12<sup>th</sup> century? How did they differ? Did the two sides agree to fight together or were they deeply divided? Why did city states appear in the Muslim world after the fall of Jerusalem?
8. Who were the Knights of Templar and the Hospitallers? What was their role in the Crusader army after the First Crusade?
9. Who was Zengi? Why was his takeover of Edessa so important to the Muslims?
10. Who was Saladin? What was his strategy prior to attacking the Crusaders? Why did he think his strategy was so vital to the livelihood of Muslim success?
11. Why was the Third Crusade launched? Who called for it? When did it begin?
12. Who is Richard I? How did he become known as Richard the Lionheart? Why did Richard turn back prior to attacking Jerusalem on the Third Crusade?
13. Discuss the extremely violent behavior of the three Crusades. Was one side more barbaric than the other? What did the continual massacres of innocent people do

to the opposing side? \*Note: Discuss Richard the Lionheart's massacre at Acre in your answer.